

drive our cars, to heat our homes, and to fuel our economy.

We are putting ourselves in a worse state of dependency than we were in, just before the oil crises of the seventies.

Today I am calling on my colleagues to send the Nation a wake up call about the lack of a sound energy policy in the United States. For the month of March, one of our colleagues will speak on the floor every day about this critical issue.

I am hopeful that these remarks will help us to develop a plan to secure control over America's energy future.

WHERE IS THE DEBT CEILING BILL?

(Mrs. KENNELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, today is February 28. Where is the debt ceiling? Speaker GINGRICH, Majority Leaders ARMEY and DOLE promised the President in writing to act on debt ceiling legislation by February 29 in a manner acceptable to both you and the Congress, in order to guarantee the Government does not default on its obligations.

Unfortunately, that does not look like it is going to happen. But the Republican leadership needs to understand they can't stall indefinitely without dire consequences.

On March 15, the debt ceiling snaps back to a lower level pursuant to the legislation we passed earlier to guarantee March Social Security checks. This means that the debt will have exceeded the debt limit and as a consequence, no securities may be issued under any circumstance for any reason without increasing the debt ceiling. This snap back has potentially disastrous consequences for the Medicare and Social Security trust funds. Because the Treasury cannot issue any kind of securities, it cannot issue the \$2 billion of new investments in the Social Security and Medicare trust funds that need to be issued on March 15 and each day thereafter.

This is a very serious problem which, if the Republican leadership allows to happen, will require legislation to make the Social Security and Medicare trust funds whole. I call on the Republican leadership to bring a clean debt ceiling bill to the floor immediately and not jeopardize the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.

DOUBLE WHAMMY OF HIGHER TAXES AND DECLINING WAGES

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, "It's the economy, stupid." That is what President Bill Clinton told us in 1992. Today, 4 years later, America is feeling the Clinton Crunch—that dou-

ble whammy of higher taxes and declining wages.

To combat the Clinton crunch Republicans believe we should balance the budget and cut taxes. President Clinton thinks we should maintain the status quo.

Just look at the record. Republicans, for the first time in a generation, passed an honest balanced budget. The President not only vetoed that plan but he has refused to negotiate in good faith toward a compromise. Now our plan also cut taxes. We cut capital gains taxes to create jobs and boost the economy, and we provided a \$500 per-child tax credit to help families suffering from the Clinton crunch.

Mr. Speaker, the choice has never been clearer. On the one hand we have Republicans, men and women who mean what they say and keep their word. And on the other hand we have President Bill Clinton, a say-anything, do-nothing liberal President.

PUTTING THE SQUEEZE ON WORKING FAMILIES

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, the last speaker in the well said let us take a look at the Republican plan, and let us take a look at what they have done. Republicans say they stand up for working people, when they fought for policies that have squeezed working families and denied them and their children needed opportunities. They have refused to raise the minimum wage. They have passed higher taxes for working families. They have passed a Medicare premium that will increase on 37 million beneficiaries. They have passed the corporate raid on workers' pensions. Your pensions are no longer safe with this new Republican majority. They have passed the repeal of the Medicaid guarantee on nursing home coverage.

Mr. Speaker, I hope America will take a look at the Republican record and their plan and see that it is nothing but putting a squeeze on working families and unwilling to cooperate with the majority of people in this country.

MEXICO NOT COOPERATING TO HALT DRUG TRAFFICKING

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the Foreign Assistance Act of 1986 mandates that on March 1 the President must announce which nation will be officially listed or certified as cooperating in the effort to halt drug production and trafficking. Mexico better not be on that list.

It is imperative that we take action against Mexico, that we finally denote

the country for what it is. Simply put, Mexico has become a narco-state. Each year, nearly three-quarters of all the Colombian cocaine consumed by Americans flows across the 2,000-mile United States-Mexican border.

Mr. Speaker, the President has the opportunity to seize his accountability. He has the opportunity to right some of our wrongs. He has the opportunity to effect change.

I urge him to act. America should not certify Mexico.

EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO REBUILDING THE MIDDLE CLASS

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the Gingrich revolution is over. As Members of Congress returned finally for work this week, all of us have been hearing from voters in our district, Republicans and Democrats alike, that the voters are rejecting the extremism of the Gingrich revolution, rejecting Medicare cuts in order to pay for tax breaks for the rich, rejecting reducing safeguards on Medicaid, in nursing homes, nursing home standards, again for tax breaks for the rich, cutting student loans in order to pay for tax breaks for people in this country that do not need it.

Republican policies, Gingrich policies, over the last 12 months would cut 2½ million students off direct student loans, would deny Pell grants to 380,000 students, would deny 50,000 young people the opportunity to serve their community while earning money for college, would deny 180,000 children access to Head Start, again all in order to pay for a tax break for the wealthiest people in the country.

All evidence says that good education is the key to rebuilding the middle class, putting people to work, giving people good wages, so they can raise their families the way Americans always have.

GINGRICH REVOLUTION JUST BEGINNING

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I heard the previous speaker from the other side of the aisle, he was a Democrat, say that the Gingrich revolution was over?

Let us set the record straight right now, ladies and gentlemen. The Gingrich revolution is the Reagan revolution. That revolution was temporarily interrupted. It is about to begin again, and the Gingrich revolution started with the Contract With America.

Let me assure you one thing: We have not been able to get all the Contract With America through this Congress. Come November, we are going to elect a Republican President, and then we are going to pass the Balanced